

"This is a tragic day for Illinois. Our state is in trouble. Governor Blagojevich's pay-to-play politics and corruption have become part of the fabric of state government.

"And now we add charges that the Governor put the U.S. Senate seat up for sale. U.S. Attorney Patrick Fitzgerald called the breadth of corruption 'staggering.' I think he is right.

"In the midst of an economic recession and with thousands of jobs at stake, we cannot stand by and watch our citizens struggle against a culture of corruption that puts political ambition and greed above the best interest of her citizens.

"For the sake of Illinois families, Governor Blagojevich should resign."